

Engineering Division

DATE: May 2, 2005

PREPARED BY: Rob Kalkbrenner, Fire Bond Program Manager

SUBJECT: Niles Fire Station #2 April 27, 2005 Community Meeting Notes

A Niles community meeting regarding Fire Station #2's was held on April 27^{th.} The agenda included the new possible site, located at the corner of G Street and Niles Boulevard, and the initial building design proposal.

Seventeen community members were in attendance, including city officials, Council Member Anu Natarajan, and HARB Board member Al Minard.

Members of the community had an opportunity to review WLC's drawings and scale model, and take part in an open discussion with the architects, staff, and each other. Copies of the proposed design, scale model, and design description are attached. (Attachment A).

Overall the community was supportive of the proposed site location and design. Many positive comments were received regarding the style and building materials proposed. The community generally wants a building that blends with Niles' historic buildings and has elements that reminds people of Niles' history. Items of interest include: a) ensuring the use of quality building materials; b) looking for opportunities to display artifacts, c) looking for ways to incorporate materials that reflect Niles' movie, steel, cannery, tile, and railroad industries; and d) how to mitigate loss of parking along

G Street and Niles Boulevard. An itemized list of their comments, suggestions, and questions are in the attached meeting notes summary including a questionnaire. (Attachment B).

Attachment A



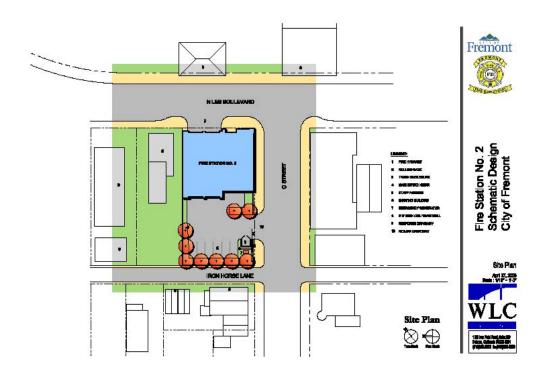
Front Corner of G Street and Niles Blvd.

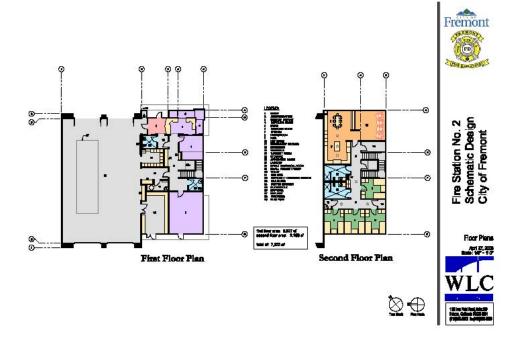


Building Front along Niles Blvd. (Wurster Building is located to the right of apparatus bays)



Rear of Building as seen from G Street





Schematic Design Project Description

April 27, 2005 Community Meeting Presentation Materials

1. SITE PLAN

- Site size 10,800sf (.27 acre)
- Fire department responds to calls onto Niles Blvd.
- Apparatus return driveway on "G" Street
- Building is up against property lines on north, east and south
- Proposed 6' tall solid yard wall surrounds the property to the north, west and south. Brick finish to match building
- Other site features includes 6 staff parking spaces, trash enclosure, main switchgear, emergency generator and landscaping
- Sidewalk paving to match existing with "diamond" feature
- No access onto Iron Horse Lane

2. FLOOR PLANS

- Building size 7,533sf (first floor 5,377sf, second floor 2,156sf)
- Two story design with apparatus bay and staff work functions on first floor and staff living quarters on second floor
- "Display window" feature on corner addressing intersection. This is a common feature on many buildings on Niles Blvd. Used for displaying department items.
- Public lobby has visual view of apparatus bay
- Internal display wall in lobby
- Shop and fitness rooms has access to secured rear work yard
- Individual sleeping dorms located on second floor opposite Niles Blvd. for noise control
- Kitchen, dining and day room complex facing Niles Blvd.
- Sliding pole located in center of stair well

3. ELEVATIONS

- Building design incorporates features which highlights the rich history of industries and businesses in the Niles District
- Primary building materials include brick veneer, pre-cast concrete panels and trim, steel awning overhang with tension cable supports, and steel "diamond" accent plates.
- Corner display window has 2'-6" sill and is 10' at the top
- Pre-cast concrete panels wrap the entire building at the ground level for durability
- Pre-cast concrete cornice trim at roof parapet
- "Art" block-out panels above the display window and below the steel awning
- Ceramic Mosaic tile accent the corner display window pop-out feature
- Total building height is 32' over the living quarters and 26' over the apparatus bay
- Use of skylight in apparatus bay for natural day-lighting

Community Meeting Notes Summary

Comments, Suggestions, and Questions

- 1. Ensure using quality building materials.
- 2. Provide architecture feature at roof line like some of the other existing buildings. Cornice / crown mold accent needs to be more substantial.
- 3. Blend the new building into the historic district.
- 4. Look for opportunities to display Niles' artifacts.
- 5. Look for ways to incorporate materials that reflect Niles' movie, steel, cannery, tile, and railroad industries.
- 6. Look for ways to include a history plaque to Essanay Studios.
- 7. Consider using the same white font sign letters used in other Niles signage.
- 8. Diamonds sidewalk insets should be terrazzo/granite.
- 9. Provide more tile at the doorway.
- 10. Prefer more tile or polished granite instead of concrete along the building's base.
- 11. The building's exterior material could be more like Essanay Studios by using embossed tin instead of brick
- 12. Provide a display shadow box on the G Street building side.
- 13. Want to see the Wurster Building relative to the proposed building.
- 14. Investigate if it's possible to have time capsules in the sidewalk.
- 15. Look for opportunity to have a Walk of Fame/ History Walk.
- 16. How many street parking spaces will be lost along G Street and Niles Boulevard? *Between 4 and 7 parking spaces may be lost. A further apparatus turning requirement study will be done.*
- 17. How will the City mitigate the loss of street parking? *The project will provide between 5 and 6 on site parking spaces*.
- 18. Is there a reason for putting fire trucks closer to Wurster? *Corner design seems to match Wurster Building better*.
- 19. If a Niles brick is provided, can it be added into the building? Yes
- 20. Will real brick or brick veneer be used? A quality brick veneer and installation method will be used.
- 21. Parking area at the rear of the property has a tall wall (approximately 6 ft.) that makes it look like a fortress. Can it be softer? Yes, we will look at a way to break up the mass.
- 22. How is the proposed building now able to fit onto the single vacant site? The earlier design used setback requirements that didn't apply to Niles Boulevard. The proposed design fits by using the correct setbacks that allow constructing a building up to the property line.
- 23. Can there be windows at the North elevation along the Wurster Building? *Building Codes also restrict openings along property lines*.
- 24. Will the windows be recessed? Yes

- 25. Have you considered pilasters on perimeter wall? It is something the design team will look at.
- 26. Are the display windows tinted or clear glass? The design team is investigating the best materials to help meet LEEDS and use the clearest glass allowable for this building type and use.
- 27. What is the height of apparatus bay? 24 to 26 feet
- 28. Is it possible to have a triage center at this station? The new Fire Station #2 will provide enhanced capability to the Niles CERT Team due to increased storage space for Disaster Supplies and a built in Ham Radio Communications Antenna.
- 29. Will you consider a higher skylight with a saw-tooth functional opening, such as the type used on the Essanay Studios building? *The design team will review the suggestion*.

Community Questionnaire with Responses Summary

1. Of the features shown in the concept plans, please indicate by writing the initials "S" if you strongly support; "M" if you moderately support, and "O" if you oppose each of these features: *No Response N/R*

S	M	O	N/R	
7	2	1	1	1. Site planning with fire station fronting Niles Blvd.
10	1	0	0	2. Storefront display window at the building corner.
8	1	0	2	3. Panels above the display window for Art or Historic reference opportunities
9	2	0	0	4. The use of skylights
2	4	3	2	5. Pre-cast concrete panel at building base.
3	6	1	1	6. Cornice detail at top of building wall.
6	3	0	2	7. Steel diamond plate accent.
9	1	0	1	8. Steel canopy overhang at display window.
8	3	0	0	9. Overall color and material scheme.
9	2	0	0	10. Arch over the apparatus bay doors.

- 2. What do you like about the proposed design?
 - Excellent! Thanks for listening re: Wurster.
 - Its looks good to me. I think it would be an asset to Niles Blvd.
 - Overall it looks good nothing is perfect.
 - Very nice design.
 - I think it definitely respects existing architecture, yet incorporate a couple of more modern elements.
 - Brick Nice Design
- 3. What do you not like about the proposed design?
 - Plain (no openings) side against Wurster Building.
 - Location
 - Not much. I am just sorry to see it move out of the neighborhood and into the commercial area.
- 4. The proposed design could be improved by:
 - I like the idea of the embossed tin. Also the saw tooth skylights and the possibility of creating a History Walk of Fame using images that represent Niles.
 - Transom Windows